

Amendments to the Claims

1. (original) A device adapted to assist the sterilisation of a limb surface, and comprising:

 a flexible tubular sleeve, closed at one end, shaped and sized so as to loosely fit, in use, around the limb of a patient whose limb surface is to be sterilised; and

 respective limb-sealing means, each located close to or at a respective end of said sleeve, and each capable of forming, in use, a seal between the sleeve and the limb of a patient.

2. (original) The device of claim 1 wherein at least one of the limb-sealing means comprises a perforated, elastic diaphragm.

3. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 wherein at least one of the limb-sealing means comprises a substantially frustoconical portion.

4. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 wherein the limb-sealing means are so constructed as to create a wiping action when slid, in use, along a patient's limb.

5. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 wherein both ends of the said sleeve are initially closed.

6. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 wherein the sleeve is substantially transparent.

7. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 wherein at least one of any sealed end of the sleeve is perforated, nicked, weakened, or otherwise adapted to assist opening of that sealed end.

8. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 further comprising at least one tab or loop to assist pulling the sleeve, in use, along a patient's limb.

9. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 further comprising fastening means to hold the two ends of the sleeve close to each other, whilst the sleeve is positioned on a patient's limb.

10. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 with an easily rupturable container of sterilising agent inside (in use) the sleeve.

11. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 further comprising a valve arrangement to allow egress of air from within the sleeve whilst the sleeve is positioned on a patient's limb.

12. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 further comprising a limb sealing means which is sized and shaped to be extendable beyond an opening formed by removal of the sealed end of the device.

13. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 wherein at least one of the limb sealing means adapts to fit limbs of differing circumference without the need to cut sections from the device.

14. (currently amended) The device of any preceding claim 1 wherein a resealable portal is provided.

15-22. (cancelled)